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RR RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLN  
RUEHLZ RUEHNEH RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHSK RUEHSR RUEHVK RUEHYG  
DE RUEHAH #0681 1531220  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 021220Z JUN 09  
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2894  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5249  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2985  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2850  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3493  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1016  
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3587  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000681

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN; SCA/P

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [SMIG](#) [PARM](#) [PK](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN HAS MI-17 HELICOPTERS; STILL CHECKING ON  
AVAILABILITY

REF: STATE 55654

¶1. (U) Sensitive but Unclassified. Not for Internet  
distribution

¶2. (SBU) On June 2, Post informed the Turkmenistan  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) about reftel request to  
support Government of Pakistan forces with additional Mi-  
17 helicopters. Post also asked for MFA assistance to  
arrange a meeting with appropriate Turkmen Government  
officials to discuss the availability of Mi-17s to assist  
Pakistan. Post will report any substantive response to  
its request.

¶3. (SBU) DATT is attempting to contact the Defense  
Attache at the Pakistan Embassy to find out if he has  
contacted the Turkmen Government directly about this  
matter and to coordinate our request.

¶4. (SBU) Turkmenistan armed forces possess Mi-17  
helicopters. On one occasion in the past, the Turkmen  
Government sent an Mi-8 to Pakistan to assist in  
humanitarian relief operations. During its return flight  
to Turkmenistan, the helicopter crashed in Afghanistan,  
killing its crew.

MILES